

Parish of Hamble-Le-Rice

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL 2017 AT HAMBLE VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH STREET, HAMBLE-LE-RICE AT 7.00 PM

Present: Cllr Sheelagh Cohen – Vice Chairman
Amanda Jobling – Clerk to the Council
Jeanette Symes – Assistant Clerk to the Council
Sgt Mark O'Hanlon
WPC Penny Young

In Attendance: 21 Parishioners

Cllr Cohen welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and introduced herself as the Vice Chair. Cllr Cohen explained that, sadly, the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Simon Hand, had experienced a slight stroke at the weekend and is currently in Southampton General Hospital. We hear that he is making good progress and wish him a speedy recovery.

Cllr Cohen welcomed to the meeting Cllr Maureen Sollitt, Deputy Mayor of Eastleigh and her escort Mr Roy Sollitt; Mims Davies the local MP and resident of Hamble, and Amanda Jobling, the new Parish Clerk.

The Agenda for the meeting has been altered slightly and will commence with information about the proposals for a community hub facility in the old Barclays Bank building. This will be introduced by Mr Matt Blythe, Local Area Manager at Eastleigh Borough Council and a full presentation to the Meeting will be made by Mr George Allen of George Allen Construction Consultancy. This will be followed by the report from the Neighbourhood Policing Team by Sgt Mark O'Hanlon and then conclude with a review of the work of the Parish Council by the Vice Chairman.

TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2016

Prior to the meeting, the minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting were distributed.

PS Mark O'Hanlon proposed Mr Tam Cook seconded, all agreed, and IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th March 2016.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY HUB FACILITY AT THE OLD BARCLAYS BANK BUILDING

Mr Matt Blythe

Mr Blythe introduced the proposals that the old Barclays Bank building be demolished and a new community hub and library facility be built for the residents of Hamble. Desire for a facility of this nature, in particular a library, dates back some time: it was identified in the

Hamble Parish Plan published in 2008. The mobile library service ceased in June last year: there were 50 residents regularly using the mobile library at that time. Enquiries with Hampshire County Council Library service has revealed that 2,000 residents in Hamble are signed up to the County's library service which strongly indicates that there is a need for a library in the area. Eastleigh Borough Council has engaged George Allen Construction Consultancy to develop the plans for the new building. This Consultancy has done a lot of work with Local Authorities and housing associations across the UK, developing such buildings as sports clubs, social places, etc. The consultancy has won a design award for the conversion of a fire station in Oxford. The consultancy puts particular focus on sensitive environmental design, environmentally friendly construction and energy efficiency. Mr Blythe introduced Mr George Allen who would speak to the Meeting about the chosen design, illustrated in the display at the rear of the hall.

Mr George Allen, George Allen Construction Consultancy

Mr Allen informed the meeting that the vision and design ethos was to meet the requirements of the conservation area in order to make the new building look as if it is part of the village. The aesthetics of the building show gable roofs and arches – all in character with the area. The roofs will be slate pitched at three different heights, brick render and mock timber board cladding giving a mix of styles and materials. The illustration of the interior is an artist's impression of design only.

The final preferred design has a small entrance at the left hand side providing access to the two 1st floor flats: one two bedroom and the other one bedroom, both designed to current space standards. These are either for let or rent.

The site itself is very small with neighbouring buildings close by. Demolition work will be required and before this is carried out, tests are required to determine whether asbestos is present in the building. GA Construction belong to the 'Considerate Contractors' Scheme' and will work sensitively on the site. There are other important elements to take into account, for example the electricity sub-station and supply cables. The new building will also require additional utility services, viz water, gas and electricity – a considerable increase in the services that exist at present within a relatively small site.

The plans displayed have been presented to a meeting of Hamble Parish Council. Planning application will be submitted by the end of the month and it is hoped that consent will be granted by the end of June. It is hoped that work will commence in the summer and will be completed by the end of February 2018.

Those parishioners present are encouraged to give their feedback at the meeting, or by completing the forms available at the rear of the hall.

Comments and responses from Mr Blythe were as follows:

- The car parking available on the site is very limited, will it be adequate? *We are not sure who owns the present car parking space and enquiries are being made. Residents of the flats will have to park their cars on the road.*
- What research has been done for the need for such a facility when, apart from a lending library, there are many community facilities in Hamble for meetings? *It was*

identified in the Parish Plan published 2008 that there was a desire for a library for residents. With approximately 2000 Hamble residents of Hamble registered with Hampshire County Council library service, this justifies the need for this facility. The Borough Council is keen to create a flexible space which could be used for other things too. The actual design of the inside of the building, in terms of the community space, is still under discussion.

- I think it is a brilliant idea: parishioners will not now have to drive to a library and if it is furnished with an ICT suite that would be even better. It is important to think about the needs of the whole community – not everybody is knowledgeable about IT and is wi-fi linked at home. Perhaps it could also be utilised in some way in the future for the youth of the area too. It will be good to have a resource such as this in the Southern Parishes. There are also important local artefacts held by the Parish Council and the TS Mercury Old Boys' Association (which will be closing in 2018). This would be a lovely space to have these things displayed, as they are part of the history of Hamble.
- Apart from the requirement for a library in there, the facility may not be used as much as hoped and thus can such an expense be justified?
- Mr Blythe was asked where he obtained the information that there were 2000 registered library users in Hamble, and his statistics were questioned. *Mr Blythe agreed to liaise with the parishioner about the origins of his data.*
- A permanent home for the local pre-school was more of a need for Hamble than having a permanent library.
- This is a smart idea: libraries are different today – they have changed. People come together in different way to a community centre. Long opening hours are important so there is access to larger working community.
- There will be a need to support the volunteers who run the library and training in the appropriate skills. *The operation of the community hub and library was still a matter of discussion between Hamble Parish Council and Eastleigh Borough Council. Similar ventures, run by volunteers, had been successful elsewhere in the Borough area.*
- What about the ongoing maintenance costs of the building, and having sufficient volunteers to keep the community building going? *The ongoing maintenance costs of the building would be borne by Eastleigh Borough Council.*

Cllr Cohen thanked Mr Allen and Mr Blythe for their presentations and concluded by saying that the operation of the library is subject to discussion and still at an early stage.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM REPORT

Sgt Mark O'Hanlon spoke to the meeting about the work the local Police were involved in behind closed doors, which take up a lot of their time, and will explain why the public do not always see a 'police presence' on their streets.

Cyber crime: This takes up a massive amount of Police time and includes unsolicited e-mails and telephone calls. Elements of personal information have been gleaned via the internet and this is exploited to trick people into giving much more extensive personal details, and then used to financially defraud them. These scams are run from West Africa, Pakistan and the Middle East. Unfortunately people in this area are falling foul of these scams and unwittingly giving away such information as their bank details. There are also

victims of 'romance scams' in the area. The worst response is to be polite, even if you refuse to engage. This response will be noted and they will try again a number of months later.

Bank and utility companies do not send any unsolicited information. If they need to contact a customer, invariably they make contact and request you go on line to obtain the legitimate details and use them to make contact. Customers can therefore be assured that their request is genuine. The Telephone Preference System gives everybody the opportunity to prevent unsolicited calls. If you don't recognise the number of the caller, if you have called ID, don't answer the telephone.

Vulnerable People: Statistics show that 65% of crime in an area is caused by a small 9% of offenders. There is usually a social reason for offending and the Police, together with Social Services and Local Authorities, endeavour to address these underlying issues to reduce crime. Often offenders have experienced difficult social situations, for example there are mental health issues or substance misuse: the Police try to help them, to empower them to move on.

Domestic Violence: This affects all groups and more people than you would imagine. Statistics show that victims call the Police on the 34th occasion of suffering an incident of violence, which indicates that the victim has suffered ongoing problems for a very long time. There are inhibiting factors which prevent them taking action sooner, such as fears of losing their home, loss of financial support, being a single parent and other emotional considerations which are difficult to surmount. The Police work a lot with Eastleigh Borough Council and charities that work with victims of domestic violence: it can take between 1 to 2 years to sort out one person's issues. In recent times people with disabilities have been taken advantage of – this is a new problem is called 'mate crime'. 'Friends' of people with disabilities abuse their accommodation or misappropriate their money for their own ends.

River Hamble: This is important for the local economy and therefore what happens on the River is important to the community. Project Kraken is still operation and PC Mark Arnold has is now working in the Marine Unit.

Mims Davies MP commented that her case load as an MP also involves a lot of work with vulnerable people, particularly sons or daughters coercing money from their elderly parents. The victims avoid complaining as they don't want their loved one going to court, even though they are committing a crime. However, there are other options such as civil injunctions which some charities will organise on behalf of victims, this solution can be instigated by contacting the Police through the 101 service. They will share information with such organisations as Social Services and Health, and together they will look for a sensitive way out of a difficult situation.

Cllr Cohen thanked PS Mark O'Hanlon for his presentation and Mims Davies for her contribution.

TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF HAMBLE-LE-RICE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Sheelagh Cohen

Confucius said that one must “Study the past if you would define the future”. These wise words have stood the test of time. Our Annual Parish Council meeting is an opportunity to do just that for our community. This meeting provides us with an opportunity to come together to review what has happened and forward to the year ahead and our plans for it.

The last year has been one of huge change. It seems hard to believe that we have yet to get to the first anniversary of the Brexit vote with the national and world changing consequences that have followed. There has not been a part of public life that has not felt the tide of change and the impact of the vote. Coupled with the outcome of the American election and increased national and international tension from terrorism, life feels less certain than it did, but that makes it all the more important to follow Confucius advice.

Change has not been confined to the international and national level. In addition to the policy changes arising from the consequences of the Brexit vote, we have had significant changes at a local level. During the year we have said goodbye to a number of colleagues who have given huge amounts of energy and time to the work of the Parish Council and it is only right that we formally record our thanks to them. In alphabetical order: Michael Atkinson; Michael Davies; Angela Fish; Clive Fish; Suzy Hamel; Elizabeth Lear; Bill Pepper and Mark Venables.

As a Parish we have been very fortunate in the candidates who sought election to the Parish Council. The new councillors bring a wide range of skills and expertise to the Council and we now have a diverse range on the Council. I have gone from being one of the younger Council members, to an ‘elder statesman’ in less than two years.

As well as new members, we also saw Brendan Gibbs, the Clerk to the Council leave after six years and I would like to record our thanks to him for all his efforts for the Parish. Now we have a new and, as is fashionable, all female team in the Parish Office. Amanda Jobling joined us this February as our new Clerk and she is here this evening with our Assistant Clerk, Jeanette Symes, who joined us in February 2016 and Minute Secretary Jackie Panakis, to ensure things go smoothly.

It has been a busy year with many things happening. I would pick the highlights now and tell you about our plans for the future.

Westfield Common During the course of the year a lot of work was carried out on Westfield Common, improving the quality of the footways to make it more accessible, installing signage and tidying up of overgrown areas. From the feedback this was clearly well received and it continues to be a real asset for the village that more people can now enjoy.

Hamble Football Club We concluded negotiations with Hamble Football Club for their new facilities and I am delighted to learn that they have gone from strength to strength this season, drawing people from a wide area to come and enjoy a great game of football. I am sure the whole village hopes their good fortune continues into the future.

Coronation Parade Coronation Parade stood out as a place that really needed some attention, both to improve the look of the area as well as improving the flow of traffic and pedestrians through the area, and boosting footfall for the shops and businesses.

Discussion started with Eastleigh Borough Council about improvements to Coronation Parade early in the year and the last consultation took place early in 2017. I am delighted to hear that Eastleigh Borough Council are pressing on with it and I hope that we will have an on-site start date shortly. In recognition of the importance of this project the Parish Council has agreed to contribute £40,000 towards its cost. We consider that it really will make such a difference to the approach to the village.

HYPE Last year sadly saw the end of the HYPE project that has previously run from Hamble School. The Parish Council recognises the very real needs of young people in the village and, as in recent years, had allocated £10,000 towards its running costs. We have been working with Hound and Bursledon Parish Councils and the YMCA to provide a new service across the three Parish areas. The scheme will start from next week and staff from the project have already been in discussions about how to get the best from the new service.

Liaison with Hampshire Police The Parish Council's work with Hampshire Police has continued with joint funding of PCSO Phil Davenport. The Parish Council liaise closely with all the members of the team responsible for Hamble. Our joint work is aimed at improving community reassurance at a time when issues around anti-social behaviour seem to be increasing. Managing issues like fly tipping, vandalism, graffiti and anti-social behaviour are continuing problems but we hope that a project like HYPE and the efforts for greater engagement with young people will help to reduce this over time.

Christmas Tree 'Gate' Although it seems a long time off, I cannot avoid talking about Christmas. I suspect that this is a 'first' – discussing Christmas in April. Christmas Tree 'Gate' was a major issue on social media and I would like to formally record the Parish Council's thanks to the Fire Brigade for their work in restoring the damage to the tree and helping with its redecoration.

There is a Jewish proverb: "Stumbling blocks are Stepping Stones" and this could certainly be applied to the issues relating to the Christmas Tree. The problems last year forced us to consider Christmas decorations and the Christmas festivities for 2017. The village celebrations in The Square have each year grown in size and popularity. Ensuring that the village has Christmas lights and wider support for our businesses at Christmas is important.

After the problems with last year's tree, the Parish Council is co-ordinating a review of our efforts for next year with the objective of reaching out to make this a more community-wide effort. Several councillors have already been on a training course about the permissions required for Christmas decorations – believe me there are a lot – and they have to be obtained just after the end of the summer. If you have ideas of your own, or want to be involved, contact Amanda and she will point you in the right direction. We hope that in Christmas 2017 we will be head-lining in the press for all the right reasons.

Hamble Lifeboat and the Public Facilities Work continued on them in the very cold weeks of January and February this year to finish the works. We have since then been working to make them available to the public with the completion of the dropped kerb from

the car park finished only last week by Eastleigh Borough Council. This should mean that they will be available very soon.

Parish Council Assets and Organisation With all this change we are now focussed on a programme of modernisation of how the Council works to ensure a more effective use of resources. This includes:

- An interactive website and improved communications
- Office opening hours that suit the public and enable staff to work more efficiently
- Electronic payments both from and to the Council
- Better use of technology: there are a number of areas that this is relevant, for example location of fly tipping or vandalism and using technology to send photographs
- Training for councillors and staff to equip us all to do the best job possible

We are also looking at investing in our assets such as play areas, our buildings and the areas we look after, to ensure that they meet the needs of the community now and in the future.

As part of this modernisation the Parish spent time planning for a new storage building to collate grounds maintenance equipment at College Playing Fields which would ensure more efficient use of equipment and staff time. Construction work started in January on the project and the building is now finished and the formal handover from the contractors should take place shortly.

Communication: What we are also very aware of is the need to improve how we communicate with people both in the community, in the business sector and from other organisations. We have, for example, started to engage with developers and land owners about what their plans are – not to give them a green light or to do deals, which is often alleged, but rather to understand what they propose and how, when we make our comments, they can make the biggest difference. In particular where Section 106 Funding is available it is important that the Council has a list of priorities and that funding helps to address and manage the impact of development. Without this type of income, improvements to Coronation Parade for example, would not happen. So we work to get the best deal we can when presented with development proposals.

Neighbourhood Plan With this in mind we agreed, in principle, that we should prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. In considering how to take this forward it has made us focus on what we think the village should look like in the future, and that it is a village that reflects the community's priorities. The last big consultation engaged in by the Parish Council was the Parish Plan in 2006. That Plan is now out of date and it is time to start a conversation and work with all interested parties in the village to agree a vision for the next 10 years. This will help us:

- Identify what is important to residents;
- Identify what tools we need to deliver the vision, and
- Identify how we spend the Parish Council's money effectively and obtain maximum value

We intend to run a 6 week consultation from 15th May to the end of June, hosting a range of events to capture people's views. We are calling it **WeRHamble – A Community Vision**. It will give everyone a chance to shape our community and our village for the next 10 years. Everyone's voice is important and we want to hear from all parts of the community. This is aimed at everyone who lives here, works here and comes to visit and relax here. Each person's contribution is important and I really want to encourage people to participate. We will analyse the results over the summer and come back with some ideas about the way forward around September time. This will also enable us to feed into the Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan consultation in October.

This is an exciting opportunity and we really hope to hear voices from all parts of the village, and especially children and young people about how we can start to plan for their needs. Look out for the posters and cards that will be distributed shortly.

Finally, we will be focussing on two clear projects over the coming few months. The first is to improve the quality of the play area and pavilion at Mount Pleasant. Both are tired and in need of investment. There are a range of options that could be considered and we hope that ideas will come from the consultation. The other project is the Community Centre Library which Mr Blythe has already talked about. This is a great opportunity to provide a new facility in the village which will offer a focus for people, and create volunteering opportunities for people with skills and time.

I therefore draw the meeting to a close. There are refreshments available and members of the Council and its staff will be available for informal discussions. I would like to emphasize that you are welcome to raise issues with the Parish Council throughout the year, either by contacting councillors, the Clerk or by attending a Parish Council meeting. I hope you have found the evening useful and that you have a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Cllr Sheelagh Cohen

Date